(b) if so, whether the scheme is based on elections through secret ballot by the workers; and

(c) if the scheme is not in operation, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. In accordance with the Air Corporation Act 1953, Air India has organised Labour Relations Committee (LRC). In February, 1988, Air India also started schemes of Corporate Joint Management Councils and Departmental Joint Management Councils. Meetings of the Corporate Joint Management Council were held in 1988.

(b) Representatives to Labour Relations Committee (LRC) are chosen by secret ballot. However, nominations are made to the Joint Management Councils by the concerned unions and associations/guilds

(c) Following denial of first class travel facility to certain section of employees, by the management, the employees withdrew from the Corporate Joint Management Councils.

Labour relation committee in Air India

1442. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any "Labour Relations Committee" in Air India;

(b) if so, for what purpose this Committee has been constituted and how it has been constituted;

(c) whether there is any proposal to constitute the Committee by election; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Labour Relations Committee of Air India (LRC) has been established under Section 41 of the Air Corporations Act, 1953 read with Rule 51 of the Air Corporations Rules, 1954 to advise the Corporation on matters which promote and secure amity and good relations between the Corporation and the employees. The Committee consists of 24 representatives out of which 12 are elected by the employees of the Corporation through secret ballot and 12 representatives are nominated by the Management. If the Chairman of the Committee is a representative of the Corporation, the Secretary is elected from amongst the elected representatives of the employees. The term of the Committee is 2 years.

Extension of services of Air India Officers after Superannuation

1443. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government refused extensions to certain officers of Air India upon their superannuation;

(b) whether Government are aware that Air India has retained such officers

on contract basis after their superannuation;

(c) whether Government have approved of such a policy of rewarding retired officers with lucrative offers on contract basis; and

(d) if not, what measures are being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Under the Memorandum of Understanding signed with Air India, powers have been delegated to the Board of Directors of Air India in regard to grant of extension/reemployment of Air India employees beyond the age of superannuation subject to the guidelines issued in this regard. The Corporation has appointed some officers on contract basis under the delegated powers with a view to utilise the knowledge and experience of the concerned officers in the interest of the Corporation.

Import of Paraxylene

1444. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state the reasons for importing paraxylene inspite of the fact that IPCL, Baroda has been producing large quantities of paraxylene?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): Uptil now IPCL, Vadodara was producing paraxylene and using the same captively. However, their captive production was not adequate to meet full requirement. IPCL, therefore used to import shortfall quantity. IPCL is however expanding its paraxylene production and will not need imports thereafter.

Recovery of over-charged amounts on Combiflame

1445. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has decided to recover the amount over-charged in the case of Combiflame;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has worked out the amount;

(c) what is the total amount due and what was the difference between the fixed price and the charged price per unit;

(d) what is the quantity of Combiflame aken into account for assessing the overcharged amount;

(e) whether his Ministry has given notice to deposit the money over-charged and if so, the period and the amount indicated in the notice;

(f) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has proposed to take penal action against the company for violation of provisions of Drugs Price Control Order; and

(g) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) In order to work out the amount of unintended benefit on Combiflame tablets, M/s. Carews Pharmaceuticals have been asked to furnish certain details which are awaited.

(f) and (g) The State Drug Controller, West Bengal has been asked to take legal action against the company for the past lapses.